

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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DRAFTED BY AF/W:GADIES:SJC

APPROVED BY AF:WESCHAUFLELE

AF/W:TWMSMITH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY COTONOU IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 049305

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, DM, US

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR BOYA

1. AF/W DIRECTOR MET WITH AMBASSADOR BOYA FOR TOUR D' HORIZON ON FEBRUARY 27. WHEN ASKED IF BOYA HAD RECEIVED ANY RESPONSE FROM GPRB REGARDING PROTEST MADE BY DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL, HE REPLIED THAT HE HAD TRANSMITTED A DETAILED REPORT TO COTONOU, AND ADDED THAT HE BELIEVED A RESPONSE WOULD BE GIVEN TO OUR EMBASSY IN COTONOU. WE NOTED IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO GPRB ASSURANCE THAT TREATMENT ACCORDED AMBASSADOR ENGLE WILL NOT BE REPEATED.

2. WE THEN RAISED QUESTION OF CHANCERY EVICTION NOTICE,

AND SUMMARIZED GPRB REPLY TO OUR NOTE FOR BOYA. WE THEN EXPLAINED TO BOYA OUR INTERPRETATION OF VIENNA CONVENTION, ALONG LINES OF OUR NOTE. BOYA SAID THAT HE WOULD COMMUNICATE OUR VIEWS TO GPRB.

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3. REGARDING QUESTION OF COMPENSATION FOR AMERICAN OIL FIRMS (TEXACO AND MOBIL), WE EXPRESSED OUR REGRET AT NEW DELAY THAT HAD RECENTLY DEVELOPED IN THE OPENING OF SUBSTANTIVE TALKS BETWEEN GPRB AND OIL COMPANIES. WE INDICATED TO BOYA THAT SUCH A DELAY ONLY MADE IT MORE DIFFICULT TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER GPRB WAS MAKING SATISFACTORY PROGRESS

TOWARDS COMPENSATION. BOYA SAID THAT HE WAS AWARE OF SEMINAR, BUT COULD NOT EXPLAIN WHY SEMINAR HAD BEEN MANDATORY FOR CIVIL SERVANTS INVOLVED IN COMPENSATION QUESTION. HE SAID THAT OUR FEELINGS WOULD BE TRANSMITTED TO COTONOU.

4. SEPTTEL FOLLOWS ON BOYA'S INDICATION OF CHAGRIN WITH FEBRUARY 27 WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE ON BENIN.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: IT NOW SEEMS POSSIBLE THAT FORMAL RESPONSE TO DEPUTY SECRETARY'S DEMARCHE MIGHT BE MADE IN COTONOU. IF SUCH REPLY IS MADE, CHARGE SHOULD NOT IMPLY THAT RESPONSE IS ACCEPTABLE, BUT SHOULD SAY THAT IT WILL BE FORWARDED TO WASHINGTON FOR CONSIDERATION. IF ASSURANCES THAT MISTREATMENT WILL NOT BE REPEATED ARE MISSING IN ANY RESPONSE CONVEYED IN COTONOU, CHARGE SHALL COMMENT THAT DEPT ATTACHES PAR-

TICULAR IMPORTANCE TO EXPRESS ASSURANCES THAT TREATMENT ACCORDED AMBASSADOR ENGLE WILL NOT BE REPEATED IN THE FUTURE. INGERSOLL

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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